

SENATE BILL 3449

By Southerland

AN ACT to name a bridge in Hamblen County in honor of the late John Porter Davis.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those exemplary citizens who contributed significantly to the moral and social fabric of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late John Porter Davis of the Lowland community in Hardin County; and

WHEREAS, a noble son of the soil, Mr. Davis worked hard his whole life while raising his family on his Cedar High Farm; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Porter primarily raised tobacco, corn, and hay on Cedar High Farm, but he also raised beef and dairy cattle, hogs, and registered Tennessee Walking Horses; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents, he ran his own gristmill and sawmill on Cedar High Farm and also ran a gristmill on Flat Creek; and

WHEREAS, affectionately known as "Booger John" due to his tremendous size and strength, Mr. Porter was much beloved by his family, friends, and neighbors in the Lowland community; and

WHEREAS, he was a religious man who attended Enterprise Church, St. Paul Church, and others over the years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Porter served as a role model for the young men in his community, because he always stood up for what he believed to be right and scrupulously adhered to the highest standards of business ethics; and

WHEREAS, today, the family's proud tradition is being continued by Mr. Davis's grandson, who still owns four acres of the original Cedar High Farm; and

WHEREAS, this Body wishes to name a certain underpass in the Lowland community to honor John Porter Davis's memory and to permanently commemorate his life of purpose and commitment; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the underpass on St. Paul Church Road in Hamblen County that passes under Interstate 81 is hereby designated the "John Porter Davis Memorial Bridge" as a lasting tribute to an accomplished human being who was much beloved by his family, friends, and neighbors.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "John Porter Davis Memorial Bridge".

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

